

BMN HIKE REPORT

Garibaldi Lake (Saturday, August 6, 2016)

by Terry Puls



**View at the outlet of Garibaldi Lake, looking back toward Castle Towers Mountain and Mt. Carr.
*Terry Puls photo.***

Even an early 6:00 am start did not deter a group of BMN hikers from our August hike to Garibaldi Provincial Park to visit Taylor Meadows and Garibaldi Lake. Eleven of us met at our meeting location in Coquitlam under clear skies, though the air had a chill to it that would prove to provide the group with comfortable temperatures for the hike. Shortly after 6:00 we headed off by car to the trailhead where we would meet four others.

Upon arriving at the Rubble Creek trailhead, we were greeted by two park rangers who warned us that the area was extremely busy and that there was a bear in the area. We never saw any signs of the bear; however, the crowds were certainly present. Even with our early start the parking lots were near capacity. After a quick introduction we headed off on our journey.

The trail is in great shape and at a favourable grade, so we were able to make it to the 6 km junction fairly quickly, while enjoying the sights of some fairly impressive Douglas-fir trees along the way. Once at the 6 km junction, we regrouped the group and, after a short break, headed for Taylor Meadows.

Upon entering the Taylor Meadows area, some of our party caught a glimpse of a grouse alongside the trail. Once at the meadows, the views start to open up and we enjoyed the view of the Black Tusk and some of the other peaks in the area.

In the meadows, looking toward Panorama Ridge.
Terry Puls photo.



As we progressed through the meadows, the views steadily improved; there were a few wildflowers still in bloom, so we moved along at a leisurely pace until we reached our highpoint of the day at Outhouse Junction. Here we had a short break and enjoyed the company of the resident chipmunks and whiskey jacks.



Another view in the meadows, looking in the direction of the Black Tusk (not seen).
Terry Puls photo.

From the junction we traversed across the meadows and continued to enjoy the heather and other flowers in bloom. Then we began our descent through the subalpine forest down to Garibaldi Lake. Upon reaching the outflow of the lake, we marvelled at the beauty of the area: the turquoise-coloured water, the forested slopes along the side of the lake, and the glaciated

peaks at the far end of the lake. We could now appreciate why so many people flock to this area. Our group settled down at the lakeshore near the Battleship Islands and enjoyed a well-deserved lunch break. We took some time to identify the surrounding peaks such as Clinker, Price, the Sphinx, Castle Towers, and Panorama Ridge. After lunch a few of us rock-hopped over to the Battleship Islands and did a bit exploring and photography. As it was now approaching 2:30 pm, we gathered for a group photo and then reluctantly started our journey back.

On the way to Garibaldi Lake, with Mt. Price and Clinker Peak visible in the background.
Terry Puls photo.

On the way back we utilized the trail that passes by Lesser Garibaldi and Barrier Lakes. Both of these lakes are very scenic with their turquoise-coloured water and tree-lined shores. After passing Barrier Lake we took a short detour to the Barrier viewpoint.

The viewpoint overlooks the Barrier, a lava dam retaining Garibaldi and its companion lakes.

According to Wikipedia, the Barrier is over 300 m thick and 2.4 km long. It was formed about 9000 years ago when lava emanating from a volcanic vent on the west shoulder of Mt. Price flowed toward the



Cheakamus River valley. At the time of the eruption, the valley was under glacial ice. The flow ran up against the ice, and when, much later, the ice melted away, the front of the flow was left as a precipitous cliff. The cliff is not particularly stable, and in the past there have been several landslides. The major slide of 1855-56 created the large boulder field that gives Rubble Creek its name.



The Barrier.
Terry Puls photo.

We enjoyed the view of the surrounding area and even witnessed some rockfall—showing just how unstable this area is—before finally heading back to the main trail and our long descent to the parking lot below. Upon reaching the parking lot we briefly chatted about the great day we all experienced.